

Amendments To The Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Ferritic stainless steel welded pipe having one or both of Ti and Nb in an amount of 0.05 to 0.5 wt% and superior in expandability by a multi-step process, said ferritic stainless steel consisting of a matrix and a welded zone, said ferritic stainless steel welded pipe characterized in that after forming, welding, and sizing, ~~a~~ the matrix of the welded pipe has an elongation in the circumferential direction of 15% or more, and a hardness difference $\Delta HV (= HV_W - HV_M)$ between the Vicker's hardness HV_W of the weld zone and the Vicker's hardness HV_M of the matrix is 10 to 40 in range; and in that a ratio $RT (= T_W/T_M)$ between a bead thickness T_W of the weld zone and a thickness T_M of the matrix is 1.05 to 1.3.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) Ferritic stainless steel welded pipe superior in expandability as set forth in claim 1, characterized by the steel pipe having been fabricated from a steel plate including, by wt%, C: 0.001 to 0.015%, Si: 0.01 to 1.0%, Mn: 0.01 to 1.0%, P: 0.01 to 0.03%, S: 0.0005 to 0.010%, N: 0.001 to 0.020%, Cr: 11 to 25%, Mo: 0.01 to 2.0%, one or both of Ti and Nb in 0.05 to 0.5%, and B: 0.0003 to 0.0030% and a balance being Fe and unavoidable impurities, having an elongation of 30% or more in the direction becoming the circumferential direction, and having an average Lankford value (r value) of 1.5 or more.

4. (Currently Amended) A method of production of a welded pipe as set forth in claim 1 or 3, comprising the steps of forming, welding and thereafter sizing the circumferential length such that an amount of sizing in circumferential length defined as $((\text{circumferential length before sizing} - \text{circumferential length after sizing}) / \text{circumferential length before sizing})$ characterized by sizing of is 0.5 to 2.0% in circumferential length after forming and welding.

5. (Currently Amended) A method of production of a welded pipe as set forth in claim 4, ~~characterized by~~ further comprising a step of annealing at 700 to 850°C after forming, welding, and sizing.